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(54) LOW-POWERED COMMUNICATION SYSTEM AND METHOD OF OPERATION

(57) Abstract:

A communication system includes a network control facility (205), two downstream channels (212, 213), at least one remote interface unit (209, 210), and at least one communication device (201, 202) associated with each remote interface unit (RIU). Each RIU operates in one of two operating modes: a low power, standby mode and a high power, active mode. The wake-up command instructs the RIU to transition from standby mode to active mode in order to receive user or control information over the primary downstream channel. The secondary downstream channel utilizes a substantially slower transmission speed (e.g., a lower order modulation) than does the primary downstream channel, thereby enabling the RIU to consume substantially less power when in standby mode than when in active mode, without adversely impacting the throughput rate of the primary downstream channel.

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